

## **Appendix**

### **Focus Group Questions**

#### **Questions – Parents Focus Groups**

1. The Task Force has developed some tentative options. They are:
  - Option #1: Leave both schools open but with changes – downsized, opening up space for other entities, upgrade for certain types of students, etc. Q: What changes would you suggest that would impact positively on the children and families presently being served?
  - Option #2: Consolidate to one of the current facilities: Q: Impact on the children and their families?
  - Option #3: Close both facilities and relocate to another location. Q: Impact on the children and their families?
  - Option #4: Close both schools and download functions to regional, local school divisions. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #5: Close the high school (returning students to local school divisions) and consolidate the elementary school to one location. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #6: Eliminate the element of blind, visually impaired and serve only deaf and hard of hearing students. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #7: Schools serve as technical education centers to local divisions/children would return to their school divisions. Q: Impact on the children and families?
2. What other options than the ones we have discussed can you think of for consolidating services to students at both schools? What would be the impact on children and their families?
3. If the decision is made that children are to be returned to the local school system, what steps should be taken by the local school system to ensure that the children receive an appropriate education?
4. What kind of support do you currently receive in your home community for your and your child? What kinds of services would you like to see in your community for your child and/or your family?
5. If one of the facilities is chosen to remain open, are there any services or programs you would like to see started at the school that are not currently available that would enhance the ability of students to achieve academically, vocationally, and socially?
6. What transition steps do you think are important be considered in a plan to serve all students at one site?

7. How much traveling time do you feel is appropriate for a child with a sensory impairment? How much traveling time do you feel is appropriate for a child with multiple disabilities?
  8. What criteria would you suggest the Task Force use in making a selection among the proposed options?
  9. Is there anything else you walked into this room wanting to say regarding VSDB consolidation of services that I have not given you an opportunity to say?
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### **Questions – Alumni Focus Groups**

1. The Task Force has developed some tentative options. They are:
  - Option #1: Leave both schools open but with changes – downsized, opening up space for other entities, upgrade for certain types of students, etc. Q: What changes would you suggest that would impact positively on the children and families presently being served?
  - Option #2: Consolidate to one of the current facilities: Q: Impact on the children and their families?
  - Option #3: Close both facilities and relocate to another location. Q: Impact on the children and their families?
  - Option #4: Close both schools and download functions to regional, local school divisions. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #5: Close the high school (returning students to local school divisions) and consolidate the elementary school to one location. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #6: Eliminate the element of blind, visually impaired and serve only deaf and hard of hearing students. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #7: Schools serve as technical education centers to local divisions/children would return to their school divisions. Q: Impact on the children and families?
2. What other options than the ones we have discussed can you think of for consolidating services to students at both schools? What would be the impact on children and their families?
3. Do you see a continued need for a residential program to serve students with sensory impairments? Why?
4. What other services or programs would you like to see started at the VSDBs that have not previously been available from the schools?

5. What transition steps do you think are essential to include in a plan that serves all students at one site?
  6. In general, what kinds of supports and services do families of students with sensory impairments need?
  7. How much traveling time do you feel is appropriate for a child with a sensory impairment versus a child with multiple disabilities?
  8. What criteria would you suggest the Task Force use in making a selection among the proposed options?
  9. Is there anything else you walked into this room wanting to say regarding VSDB consolidation of services that I have not given you an opportunity to say?
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### **Questions – Personnel Focus Groups**

1. The Task Force has developed some tentative options. They are:
  - Option #1: Leave both schools open but with changes – downsized, opening up space for other entities, upgrade for certain types of students, etc. Q: What changes would you suggest that would impact positively on the children and families presently being served?
  - Option #2: Consolidate to one of the current facilities: Q: Impact on the children and their families?
  - Option #3: Close both facilities and relocate to another location. Q: Impact on the children and their families?
  - Option #4: Close both schools and download functions to regional, local school divisions. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #5: Close the high school (returning students to local school divisions) and consolidate the elementary school to one location. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #6: Eliminate the element of blind, visually impaired and serve only deaf and hard of hearing students. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #7: Schools serve as technical education centers to local divisions/children would return to their school divisions. Q: Impact on the children and families?
2. What other options than the ones we have discussed can you think of for consolidating services to students at both schools? What would be the impact on children and their families?
3. If the decision is made that children are to be returned to the local school system, what concerns would you have about services being available for children with

sensory impairments? How would you suggest the school divisions address these concerns?

4. If one of the facilities is chosen to remain open, are there any services or programs you would like to see started at the school that are not currently available at the schools but if offered would enhance the ability of students to achieve academically, vocationally, and socially?
  5. What transition steps do you think are important be considered in a plan to serve all students at one site?
  6. How much traveling time do you feel is appropriate for a child with a sensory impairment? How much traveling time do you feel is appropriate for a child with multiple disabilities?
  7. If one or both schools are closed, what could be done to support school staff as they make the transition to other employment/activities?
  8. What criteria would you suggest the Task Force use in making a selection among the proposed options?
  9. Is there anything you walked into this room wanting to say regarding consolidation of services I have not given you an opportunity to say?
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### **Questions – Special Education Directors with Students Placed at the VSDBs Group**

1. The Task Force has developed some tentative options. They are:
  - Option #1: Leave both schools open but with changes – downsized, opening up space for other entities, upgrade for certain types of students, etc. Q: What changes would you suggest that would impact positively on the children and families presently being served?
  - Option #2: Consolidate to one of the current facilities: Q: Impact on the children and their families?
  - Option #3: Close both facilities and relocate to another location. Q: Impact on the children and their families?
  - Option #4: Close both schools and download functions to regional, local school divisions. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #5: Close the high school (returning students to local school divisions) and consolidate the elementary school to one location. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #6: Eliminate the element of blind, visually impaired and serve only deaf and hard of hearing students. Q: Impact on the children and families?

- Option #7: Schools serve as technical education centers to local divisions/children would return to their school divisions. Q: Impact on the children and families?
2. What other options than the ones we have discussed can you think of for consolidating services to students at both schools? What impact do you see these options having on children and their families?
  3. Do you see a continued need for a residential program to serve students with sensory impairments? Why?
  4. What do local school divisions need to do to improve services for students with sensory impairments (deaf/HI and blind/VI)?
  5. What state level initiatives are needed to assist local school divisions to serve students with sensory impairments?
  6. What transition steps do you think are essential to include in a plan that serves all students at one site?
  7. What other services or programs are needed from the VSDBs that are not currently available from the schools?
  8. How much traveling time do you feel is appropriate for a child with a sensory impairment versus a child with multiple disabilities?
  9. What criteria would you suggest the Task Force use in making a selection among the proposed options?
  10. Is there anything you walked into this room wanting to say regarding consolidation of services I have not given you an opportunity to say?
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### **Questions – Consumer Organizations Group**

1. The Task Force has developed some tentative options. They are:
  - Option #1: Leave both schools open but with changes – downsized, opening up space for other entities, upgrade for certain types of students, etc. Q: What changes would you suggest that would impact positively on the children and families presently being served?
  - Option #2: Consolidate to one of the current facilities: Q: Impact on the children and their families?
  - Option #3: Close both facilities and relocate to another location. Q: Impact on the children and their families?
  - Option #4: Close both schools and download functions to regional, local school divisions. Q: Impact on the children and families?

- Option #5: Close the high school (returning students to local school divisions) and consolidate the elementary school to one location. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #6: Eliminate the element of blind, visually impaired and serve only deaf and hard of hearing students. Q: Impact on the children and families?
  - Option #7: Schools serve as technical education centers to local divisions/children would return to their school divisions. Q: Impact on the children and families?
2. What other options than the ones we have discussed can you think of for consolidating services to students at both schools? What impact do you see these options having on children and their families?
  3. Do you see a continued need for a residential program to serve students with sensory impairments? Why?
  4. What do local school divisions need to do to improve services for students with sensory impairments (deaf/HI and blind/VI)?
  5. What state level initiatives are needed to assist local school divisions to serve children with sensory impairments?
  6. What steps do you think are essential to include in a plan that serves all students at one site?
  7. What other services or programs are needed from the VSDBs that are not currently available from the schools?
  8. How much traveling time do you feel is appropriate for a child with a sensory impairment versus a child with multiple disabilities?
  9. What other concerns do you have specific to the consumer group you represent regarding the issue of consolidation of services?
  10. What criteria would you suggest the Task Force use in making a selection among the proposed options?
  11. Is there anything you walked into this room wanting to say regarding the consolidation of services I have not given you an opportunity to say?
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